

HAN alert
Low level, email only
April 5, 2013

CDC Health Advisory - Human Infections with Novel Influenza A (H7N9) Viruses

On April 5, 2013, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a Health Advisory for clinicians and public health officials regarding 14 recent human infections with an avian influenza A (H7N9) virus. At this time, all cases have been located in China and have developed severe respiratory illness. These are the first human infections identified with an avian influenza A (H7N9) virus infection. No person-to-person transmission or epidemiologic link between any of the cases has been identified. The Health Advisory addresses case investigation and testing, infection control and treatment guidelines of suspect avian influenza cases and is posted in the Alert Details section of the HAN.

At this time, no cases of human infection with avian influenza A (H7N9) viruses have been detected in the United States. However, clinicians are reminded to consider influenza as a possible diagnosis when evaluating patients with acute respiratory illnesses, including pneumonia, and should consider the possibility of avian influenza A (H7N9) virus infection in persons with respiratory illness and an appropriate travel or exposure history. Commercially available rapid influenza diagnostic tests may not detect avian influenza A viruses in respiratory specimens; RT-PCR testing at the MDCH Bureau of Laboratories is recommended (prior approval required). Any questions or reports of suspect cases should be directed to your local health department or to the Michigan Department of Community Health at (517) 335-8165 or after hours at (517) 335-9030.

Sent by the MDCH Division of Communicable Disease